

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 000856

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR; IIP/RW; IIP/RNY (FRANK); BBG/VOA; IIP/WEU; AF/PA; EUR/WE (DEBORAH MENNUTI)/P/SP; D/C (MCCOO); EUR/PA (BERBENA); INR/P; INR/EUC; PM; OSC ISA FOR ILN; NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC FOR ITA/EUR/FR AND PASS USTR/PA (ANN LUZZATO); USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO/PA; MOSCOW/PA; ROME/PA; BRUSSELS/PA; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - SECRETARY RICE TO EUROPE
IRAQ
PARIS - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

1. SECRETARY RICE TO EUROPE
2. IRAQ

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

DOMESTIC STORIES DOMINATE TODAY'S FRONT PAGES, EXCEPT FOR LE FIGARO WHICH DEVOTES ITS LEAD TO THE "THREAT FROM RADICALISM" IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AFTER THE SHARM EL-SHEIK CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT. "PUTTING THE PEACE PROCESS BACK ON TRACK WILL VERY MUCH DEPEND ON EXTREMISTS ON BOTH SIDES." IN LEFT-OF-CENTER WEEKLY LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR, WHICH IS DEVOTED TO THE HISTORY OF FRANCE'S RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND THE ARAB WORLD, EDITORIALIST JEAN DANIEL WONDERS ABOUT FRANCE AND EUROPE'S POSSIBLE ROLES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. "WHAT IF EUROPE COULD BE THE GUARANTOR OF THE FUTURE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS, NOW THAT FRANCO-ISRAELI RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED AND THAT FRANCO-AMERICAN TIES ARE LESS TENSE?"

SECRETARY RICE'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS, AND SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S

SIPDIS

VISIT TO NICE ARE REPORTED. IN LE FIGARO, CORRESPONDENT ALEXANDRINE BOUILHET NOTES THAT "SECRETARY RICE'S TONE IN BRUSSELS IS HARSHER THAN WHEN SHE SPOKE IN PARIS." IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX EDITORIALIST BRUNO FRAPPAT COMMENTS ON THE "MAGISTERIAL LECTURE SHE GAVE IN PARIS" AND ON THE "A LA CARTE" APPROACH TO TYRANNY AND FREEDOM PRESENTED BY THE U.S.: "A VAST ALLIANCE OR A MORE RESTRICTED CIRCLE, DEPENDING ON U.S. INTERESTS." (SEE PART C)

FRANCOIS HEISBOURG, DIRECTOR OF THE FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH, IS INTERVIEWED IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX, FURTHER TO SECRETARY RICE'S SPEECH ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY: "THE GOOD NEWS

SIPDIS

IS THAT THE AMERICANS ARE COMING WITH AN EXTENDED HAND. BUT THEIR VISION FOR SPREADING FREEDOM IS STILL NOT A STRATEGY. EUROPE AND THE U.S. STILL DIFFER ON SEVERAL ISSUES. IRAN IS ONE OF THEM. HERE THE EUROPEANS AND THE AMERICANS ARE SEEKING VERY DIFFERENT STRATEGIC GOALS. WHAT I BELIEVE IS THAT THE EUROPEANS CAN EXPECT A MORE DISTANT AMERICA, AND HEAVIER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WHICH THEY ARE NOT PREPARED. IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AMERICAN POLICY IS CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR A SHOCK BETWEEN CIVILIZATIONS, MADE WORSE BY GROWING HYPER-TERRORISM. THE EUROPEANS HAVE A CHOICE BETWEEN SUPPORTING U.S. POLICY AND BEING SWALLOWED BY THE SHOCK BETWEEN CIVILIZATIONS, OR TAKING THEIR DISTANCE, WITH THE RISK OF A SERIOUS TRANSATLANTIC CRISIS."

REPORTING ON THE NATO SUMMIT IN NICE, ARNAUD DE LA GRANGE WRITES: "THE BAD BOY OF THE ALLIANCE IS HOSTING THE BIG GUYS OF THE MILITARY ORGANIZATION. WE CAN SPEAK ABOUT NORMALIZATION, BUT NOT OF FULL CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS, PARTICULARLY OVER IRAQ." IN HIS REPORT DE LA GRANGE QUOTES GUILLAUME PARMENTIER OF IFRI (FRENCH INSTITUTE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS): "FRANCE'S POSITION IS A BALANCED ONE. PARIS IS NO LONGER OPPOSED TO NATO GETTING INVOLVED WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE ALLIANCE FROM BECOMING A FIG LEAF FOR AMERICAN INTERVENTIONS AROUND THE GLOBE."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

SECRETARY RICE TO EUROPE

SIPDIS

"A MAGISTERIAL LECTURE"

BRUNO FRAPPAT IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (02/10): "A MAGISTERIAL LECTURE IS USEFUL ONLY IF IT IS FOLLOWED BY A PRACTICAL SESSION. THIS GOES FOR SECRETARY RICE'S SPEECH AT SCIENCE PO. WHERE SHE DEVELOPED PRESIDENT BUSH'S MESSIANIC DOCTRINE. THE PRINCIPLE IS FREEDOM. THE TOOL: PARTNERSHIPS. BUT THE ABSOLUTE

PRINCIPLE FAILS WHEN GEOGRAPHICAL VARIABLES ARE PRACTICED: TYRANNY IN IRAN, BUT NOT IN LIBYA? TYRANNY IN SYRIA, BUT NOT IN CHINA? . AMERICA'S STRATEGIC DOCTRINE IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THE UN'S UNIVERSALISM AND MULTILATERALISM, WITH ALLIANCES BUILT `A LA CARTE.' AT TIMES IT WILL BE A LARGE ALLIANCE, AT OTHERS A RESTRICTED CIRCLE, DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION AND THE INTERESTS AT STAKE. THIS IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THE MIGHTY: TO CALL ON THE OTHERS ONLY WHEN THEY CANNOT DO OTHERWISE. AMERICAN-STYLE PARTNERSHIP HAS TWO PILLARS: THE CONVICTION OF BEING RIGHT AND THE KNOWLEDGE IT IS ALL-POWERFUL. THE PARTNERS HAVE A CHOICE BETWEEN BEING OBEDIENT OR PRETENDING TO PROTEST. A GREAT LECTURE INDEED."

"PRESSURE ON THE EUROPEANS"

ALEXANDRINE BOUILHET IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (02/10): "AFTER PLAYING HER SOFT MUSIC IN PARIS, AMERICA'S CHIEF OF DIPLOMACY WENT ON THE OFFENSIVE IN BRUSSELS. RAISING ISSUES OF DISSENSION SUCH AS IRAN, IRAQ AND THE EMBARGO AGAINST CHINA. WASHINGTON THINKS THAT ON THESE THREE ISSUES EUROPE IS TOO SOFT, TOO COMPLAISANT, IN SHORT NOT AGGRESSIVE ENOUGH. HER COMMENTS ABOUT IRAN ARE A SEVERE LESSON IN DIPLOMACY ADDRESSED TO FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN AND GERMANY. LATER, SECRETARY RICE VOICED WASHINGTON'S CONCERNS ABOUT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AGAINST CHINA. SHE PRESSURED THE EU, REMINDING ITS MEMBERS THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WAS `VERY ILL-PERCEIVED' BY THE U.S. AND JAPAN. BUT IN SPITE OF THE PRESSURE, THE EU IS READY TO GO AHEAD (WITH LIFTING THE EMBARGO) AFTER PRESIDENT BUSH'S TRIP."

IRAQ

"GREATNESS AND CONSTRAINTS OF AMERICA'S RISK TAKING"

CLAUDE IMBERT IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER WEEKLY LE POINT (02/10): "THE IRAQIS HAVE VOTED, AND VOTED EN MASSE. IN BAGHDAD, AND AGAINST THE PESSIMISTIC PROGNOSIS, AMERICAN ACTIVISM HAS REGISTERED A FIRST WIN. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE HAPPY `RESHAPING' OF THE GREATER MIDDLE EAST WILL FOLLOW. BUT WE MUST ADMIT THAT THE ADVENTURE WHICH STARTED UNDER THE BANNER OF YET-TO-BE-FOUND WMD, AND WAS LATER STRATEGICALLY ILL-MANAGED, HAS NOT LED CHAOS. WE WILL REMEMBER THAT AMERICA'S VITALITY, CONSTANCY AND POWER PREVAILED. AND WE WILL LEARN NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE THE STRENGTH OF AMERICA'S DREAM OF `LIBERTY LIGHTING THE WAY.' IN IRAQ, THE DOOR IS AJAR, BUT DEMOCRACY IS NOT BEHIND THE DOOR. STILL THE PREMISES ARE THERE. WHAT WE CAN FEAR IS THE TEARING APART OF THE THREE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES. IF WE MUST ACCEPT AN INTERIM MODERATE ISLAM IN ORDER TO FINALLY BURY THE ISLAM OF FUNDAMENTALISTS, THEN I WILL RESIGN MYSELF TO THIS." LEACH